

REMARKS

Interview
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Applicant's attorney wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner for his constructive comments during the telephonic interview conducted September 24, 2004. During the interview, Japanese Patent Document No. Hei 6-173110(A) to Suzuki et al. and US Patent 6,449,147 to Schiebl et al. were discussed. The present amendment is being submitted via facsimile mail in accordance with the Accelerated Examination Program, a petition under 337 C.F.R. Section 102(d) and M.P.E.P § 70802 (VIII) having been granted on April 1, 2004.

In order to emphasize the patentable distinctions of applicant's contribution to the art, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation previously recited in dependent claim 4, namely the use of long length para-aramid or high density polyethylene reinforcing fibers in the bonded net or mesh used to reinforce the inner and outer surfaces of the helmet. Claim 9 has been amended to recite an improved helmet system, wherein the mesh or net of long length fibers disposed on the faces of the helmet molding cavity comprises long-length para-aramid or high density polyethylene reinforcing fibers. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant's invention, as delineated by claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, and 12, as amended, provides a helmet system that is strong, lightweight, and durable, yet provides increased protection to users engaged in contact sports. Many such activities, like football, entail body contact with large, impulsive forces experienced by both players. Improved protective equipment is urgently needed to protect the athletes, who have in recent years become bigger, stronger, and faster, only increasing the ferocity of their contact and the likelihood for serious, debilitating, or even life-threatening, injury. A given player may well experience several dozen significant contact events